



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

HALF GONE: Oil, Gas, Hot Air and the Global Energy Crisis

by Jeremy Leggett

Portobello Books Ltd, UK, 2005

ISBN 1-84627-004-9 (312pp tpb)

Availability: Portobello Books,

<http://www.portobellobooks.com>; Penguin Group, <http://www.penguin.com.au>

If the global "topping point" for oil production hasn't already been reached, it will be by 2010, says Jeremy Leggett. He's a former oil exploration geologist who in 1989 "saw the light", became an environmentalist and joined Greenpeace as its chief scientist. Now he runs his own alternative energy technology company. He says not to expect governments, energy authorities, OPEC or oil companies to warn us about this crisis; they wouldn't want us to panic. Yet that is the likely scenario when the inevitable happens, unless we can immediately curb economic growth and fast-track the large-scale uptake of renewable energy technologies.

Leggett argues in *Half Gone* that the inevitable shortfall in production, with no significant 100,000-barrel-a-day oil wells going on line until around 2012, will create price shocks, recessions and a stockmarket crash. Informing his argument are the "early topper" statements by fellow geologists and former and current oil industry insiders like analyst Matthew Simmons, Colin Campbell (who founded the Association for the Study of Peak Oil in 2001) and *Petroleum Review* editor Chris Skrebowski, who has produced his own "peak oil" data. In 2004, Campbell and Skrebowski made a deputation to the

British Parliament to warn members about the seriousness of the looming crisis, but to little avail. These "whistleblowers" have come up with production and reserves figures seriously at odds with the grossly overstated ones released by the oil companies.

Compounding the problems of increasing demand and decreasing supplies of oil and gas are the problems associated with the growing trends in global warming and climate change, and Leggett lashes out at the mediocre international efforts to prepare for the "danger threshold". He has an interesting take on "how we got into this mess" and some exciting and workable ideas on how we can turn it around for a brighter future.

THE SYNDICATE: The Story of the Coming World Government

by Nicholas Hagger

O Books/John Hunt Publishing, Ropley, Hampshire, UK, 2004, www.O-books.net

ISBN 1-903816-85-8 (446pp tpb)

Availability: **Aust**—Brumby Books, tel (03) 9761 5535; **NZ**—Peaceful Living, tel (09) 921 6222; **UK**—Orca, tel 01202 665432;

USA—NBN, tel 1800 462 6420

The origins of our present troubles with globalisation, Middle Eastern conflict and terrorism can be traced to behind-the-scenes influences going back a few centuries, and the names Rothschild and Rockefeller are writ large. Nicholas Hagger, a former professor of English and the author of 17 books on history, philosophy and literature including *The Secret History of the West* (see review in 13/02), has a penchant for research into the so-called New World Order—perhaps the United States of the World, if certain powerful elites have their way. Hagger is not the first to name a core

group of 12 families (he calls it "The Syndicate") within the context of a pattern of shadowy interests aimed at undermining nation-state sovereignty, but here he concludes that these power plays all boil down to the pursuit of oil, money and power.

In his analysis, Hagger looks back on Hitler's Third Reich as a failed one-world revolution, examines the intertwined relationship between Syndicate and Russian interests during the Cold War, and casts doubt on the official 9/11 story. Concerning the latter, he considers the notion that Osama bin Laden had a stolen version of PROMIS software supplied by the Russians, but his communications were being tapped by the Israeli Mossad. He also looks into the suggestion that Saddam Hussein was exploring a deal with al-Qa'ida after all.

Hagger is hopeful that the forces wanting to implement global democracy will win out in the end, and believes the United Nations has been sidelined in this quest. We have the choice of two New World Orders, and we'd be advised to go with the less corrupt.



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THE COLLAPSE OF GLOBALISM and the Reinvention of the World

by John Ralston Saul

Penguin Group (Australia), 2005, 2006
ISBN 0-14-300498-0 (309pp pb)

Availability: <http://www.penguin.com.au>

Canadian philosopher and author John Ralston Saul declares globalism a failure in terms of its ideological foundation and its practical application over the last few decades. Globalisation in practice may have expanded world trade, but it has failed to alleviate global poverty and the AIDS crisis, improve the public good or protect people from wars, dictators or terrorists.

In *The Collapse of Globalism*, Saul traces the progress of the globalism idea to its ultimate downfall as he sees it. While decline was setting in during the 1990s, the situation was terminal by the end of 2001, symbolically marked by the collapse of Enron. Its demise was helped by the NGO-dominated anti-globalisation movement (whose prominence, ironically, was assisted by the world wide web). People all over the world have seen through the empty promises.

At the heart of the problem, Saul suggests, is a misplaced ideology that has imbued economics with a quasi-religious power and made economic growth the ultimate measure of success—but at the expense of the multi-dimensional lives of real people. And far from the nation-state being dead (its death a presumed goal of the globalist agenda), it is alive and well and taking on new forms, for better or worse. Saul has his prescription for a better outcome that revolves around nations and citizens being able to make responsible choices to meet local needs without surrendering sovereignty to corporations or superpowers or being strangled by

debt, as is still the case for the Third World. You may think you've heard all this before, but it doesn't hurt to have Saul reiterate it.

THE FALL

by Steve Taylor

O Books/John Hunt Publishing, Ropley, Hampshire, UK, 2005, www.O-books.net
ISBN 1-905047-20-7 (336pp pb)

Availability: Visit <http://www.O-books.net>

According to Manchester-based author and university lecturer Steve Taylor as well as other historians such as Riane Eisler and James DeMeo whom he quotes, humanity lived in peace and social equality and in harmony with nature until around 4000 BCE. Even the early horticulturalists of the Middle East, Central Europe, China and North Africa were as peaceful as their gathering/hunting forebears. There was no war, patriarchy or overt materialism and apparently little of the psychological alienation that is so common in today's post-industrial world. But all this was before what Taylor calls "the Ego Explosion" which gave way to 6,000 years of "collective psychosis".

So what went wrong? Taylor argues that large groups of people underwent a psychological shift as a result of climate change that began in North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia towards the end of the sixth millennium BCE and transformed fertile, semi-forested grassland into desert. Bands of "mobile pastoralists" now had to claim new territories and, before long, patriarchal chieftain-based tribes, invasions and conquests, social stratification and theistic religions became the order of the day. There was a newfound sense of individuality that led to the achievement of high levels of cultural and technological development, but on

the other hand women were no longer regarded as equal to men. The brutality and oppression that marked what Taylor calls "The Fall" continues to this day, but there are signs that we're already emerging from this dark phase of human history.

In his remarkable book (with foreword by Dr Stanley Krippner), Taylor observes the advances in thinking from the egalitarianism of the French Revolution and the rise of socialism and democracy to the more recent "second wave" leaps beginning with the 1960s explosion of the women's liberation and hippie movements and the associated blurring of gender boundaries. Other signs that we're in a "trans-Fall" period are the environmental movements and the more enlightened attitudes to indigenous peoples of the last few decades. One of the effects of "the fallen psyche", Taylor says, is an intense desire for wealth and status, so our materialistic culture still has a long way to go if we're to transcend the "disease" of ego-separateness, see the "spirit-force" in everything and rekindle the Golden Age.





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IN TUNE WITH INFINITE POWERS

by Tony Talmage

CMA Ltd, UK, 2006

ISBN 1-4116-6343-8 (170pp tpb)

Availability: <http://www.lulu.com>

If you've ever experienced synchronicities or personally meaningful coincidences in your life—or more of them, the more you give them attention—you'll really appreciate Tony Talmage's foray into metaphysical territory. A former BBC and national newspaper journalist, Talmage has been exploring paranormal manifestations for 30 years and has identified common threads linking disparate phenomena. Influenced by aspects of Einstein's relativity, quantum mechanics and British "maverick" biologist Dr Rupert Sheldrake's theory of formative causation, he has come up with the concept of "cosmogenic energy"; by tapping into this energy we learn how to fulfil our true destiny.

Talmage is talking evolutionary steps if not leaps here, but he provides some basic concepts which are already well known in esoteric teachings: that the universe is alive with energy; that thoughts have power and longevity in the etheric realms (the negative ones can be "preyed upon" by discarnate entities); and that cosmogenic energy is being put to work in cases of clairvoyance, dowsing, miracles, psychometry and telekinesis and can be "plugged into" for positive (or negative) purposes.

His "Devil's advocate" dialogue at the end of some chapters dampens any doubts you may have about the reality of interdimensional realms. Talmage gives instruction on how we can access the worlds beyond the physical senses and make it all work for us within the larger cosmogenic field. This means learning how to see the "real you" as

the spirit entity that exists within the physical self but is connected to a sea of energy, the Life Force, to which we contribute and from which we receive inspiration.

Anyone who has ever realised that the experimenter can't be divorced from the subject will realise that there's a whole other world to be explored and that persistence will expand the frontiers of science. A gold star to Tony Talmage for his attempts in demystifying the territory and making it more accessible and navigable for us.

CONFESSIONS OF A RADICAL TRADITIONALIST

Essays by John Michell

Dominion Press, VT, USA, 2005

ISBN 1-4116-6343-8 (170pp hc)

Availability: **UK**—Turnaround, website

<http://www.turnaround-uk.com>; **USA**—

Dominion Press, dominion@pshift.com

Many readers of NEXUS will be familiar with the works of philosopher, artist and Earth mysteries researcher John Michell. His book *The View Over Atlantis* (1969) inspired a new generation to explore the ley lines and megalithic monuments of Britain and in more recent times to investigate the crop circle phenomenon. Now a "veteran" author in his early 70s, Michell has contributed for at least 10 years to the UK magazine *The Oldie* with his column "An Orthodox Voice". This is a collection of 108 of his short essays, compiled and introduced by Joscelyn Godwin, a long-time fan of Michell's work and himself a researcher/author on mysterious matters.

Godwin hasn't followed any chronological order (and gives no date references), but has grouped the essays according to themes: The Good Old Days, Albion, Phenomena,

People, Sacred Cows, Science, Modern Madness, Apocalypse and Paradise of the Philosophers. The selection shows not just what an erudite and witty writer Michell is, but the incisive analysis he can bring to bear on our challenging times. In one essay he can be railing against the bureaucracy that prohibits Stonehenge from being properly utilised as a Druidic temple, and in the next breath siding with the "New Age travellers" who play out their versions of ancient rituals at sacred sites. Or he can be singing the praises of lost Albion, while declaring that the Queen should take up her sacred duty and reinstitute this former Golden Age. The beautiful cover painting of Michell in 1972, by Maxwell Armfield, captures the author as geometer at home in the Albion landscape.

In reviewing this book, I read essays at random and according to pet topics and was interested to see many references to Plato, William Blake and the visionary scientist Rupert Sheldrake. Michell's anecdotes can be both wise and scathing and make for absorbing and often amusing reading.



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LIFE BEFORE LIFE: A Scientific Investigation of Children's Memories of Previous Lives

by **Dr Jim B. Tucker**

Piatkus, UK, 2005 (first published by St Martin's Press, NY, 2005)

ISBN 7499-2576-0 (309pp pb)

Availability: Piatkus Books Ltd, website <http://www.piatkus.co.uk>

A fascinating body of knowledge has been building up over the last 40 years on the subject of young children's memories of past lives. This research has been conducted through the University of Virginia's Division of Personality Studies—set up by Professor Ian Stevenson, the renowned pioneer in this line of research—and with other institutions.

Dr Jim Tucker is a child psychiatrist at this university and has worked with Professor Stevenson and other frontier psychologists such as Dr Jürgen Keil of the University of Tasmania to conduct further field research and apply statistical analysis to the 1,100 of 2,500 cases so far inputted into the database. Many of the cases are from India and Southeast Asia, but Prof. Stevenson did originally target these regions for their more prevalent belief in the possibility of reincarnation. (The researchers want to hear from parents of children who have reported such memories, especially in North America; email DOPS@virginia.edu.)

Not that the studies are being performed to prove reincarnation; it's just that much of the evidence for children's past life memories points to the likely possibility of reincarnation. Dr Tucker, in *Life Before Life*, is not content to take stories on face value but subjects them to rigorous scientific scrutiny. Evidence comes from birthmarks, memories, unusual behaviours, recognition of familiar

faces and objects, etc. A high proportion of these children remember or may even be physically scarred by trauma that they say ended their last life—a clue in itself.

Dr Tucker, like his predecessor, has travelled extensively and, guided by strict protocols, has interviewed children, their parents and even some of the "past life" families identified by the children. He recounts some uncanny stories, but is careful to consider normal and paranormal explanations and discount those that don't compute—including suggestions of demonic possession and genetic memory. Thus he is further defining the range of this exciting territory.

BEYOND REINCARNTATION: Experience Your Past Lives & Lives Between Lives

by **Joe H. Slate, PhD**

Llewellyn Publications, USA, 2005

ISBN 0-7387-0714-7 (194pp tpb)

Availability: <http://www.llewellyn.com>

As the title suggests, this book discusses more than just the evidence for reincarnation. It explores reports of time spent in past lives and between lives as well as of intradimensional "astral" travels in this lifetime. In *Beyond Reincarnation*, Athens State University emeritus professor Dr Joe Slate offers answers based on many years of research through his lab projects in parapsychology funded by the US Army and the Parapsychology Foundation of New York.

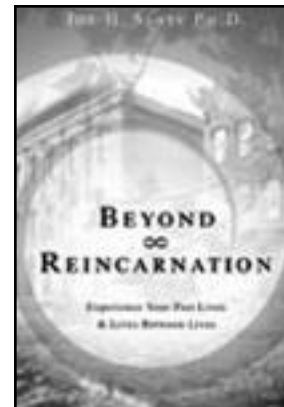
Dr Slate explains that knowledge of past lives has benefits in balancing our present life, coming to terms with our direction, enlarging our perspective and being more accepting of others. Such knowledge can have therapeutic value, can satisfy our basic human need to know, and may even have

global implications by making us more compassionate and proactive about the pressing problems of poverty, hunger and disease.

Furthermore, there are ways of tapping into this knowledge of self and the cosmos. In the latter pages, he describes the nine-step Hypnagogic Arrest Strategy that during sleep induces travel to designated destinations including the discarnate realm; the 11-step Eye Blink Procedure designed to induce the out-of-body state; and the 10-step Astral Excursion process that taps mental imagery and the power of *real* love.

The techniques of astral projection, hypnosis and past-life regression, when practised correctly and with the right attitude of mind, offer us ways to obtain knowledge of the "spirit world" and ultimately about our self in all its dimensions.

Dr Slate maintains that all our experiences are stored within as part of the soul's evolutionary journey. But he adds that by interacting with the spiritual planes we open ourselves up to new levels of energy as well as personal empowerment and joy.





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MAJIC EYES ONLY

by Ryan S. Wood

Wood Enterprises, USA, 2005
ISBN 0-9772059-0-8 (303pp hc)

Availability: Wood Enterprises, websites
<http://www.majiceyesonly.com>,
<http://www.majesticdocuments.com>

The Top Secret documents leaked in 1998 arguably by the CIA to UFO researcher Tim Cooper (son of a USAF Office of Special Investigations Master Sergeant) ended up in the custodianship of aerospace physicist Dr Robert Wood (a former employee of McDonnell Douglas) and his son Ryan Wood, who've made them available at <http://www.majesticdocuments.com>.

Ryan Wood, who's had an interest in UFOs since childhood, takes up the reins in *MAJIC Eyes Only* to refute any arguments that the leaked documents aren't genuine. The "Majestic-12 Group Special Operations Manual" of April 1954 is a significant exhibit, and Wood cites compelling supporting evidence to verify its authenticity, although in certain instances we have to take his word for it. The text of the manual is reprinted in the appendix, along with other documents. Some of the accompanying photos are intriguing, though not proof...

In *MAJIC...*, Wood focuses on evidence for the retrieval of crashed UFOs and their occupants, reviewing 74 examples from as far back as 1897 (mentioned in a leaked photocopy of a 1942 memo to President Roosevelt) to 1996. To each case he assigns an authenticity factor, weighting criteria such as eyewitnesses, sources, zingers (the aspects that go far beyond the norm), content, chronology, forensics and anachronisms (the stories that don't match in time or space). Wood considers many dozens of

potential UFO crashes, relying considerably on research by other UFO investigators; e.g., the 1897 case of a silver, cigar-shaped object that crashed near Aurora, Texas, has been heavily researched by veteran investigator Jim Marrs (who contributes the foreword to this book). Pioneer Leonard Stringfield is given due credit, as are others. There are some stunning examples from around the globe—certainly not just from Roswell!

The final chapter is on the ill-fated SETI project, and the afterword exposes the "anti-conclusions" peddled by the 1969 Condon committee and gives some background on the source of the Majestic documents. May those behind the scenes keep on leaking!

UFOs OVER CALIFORNIA

by Preston Dennett

Schiffer Publishing, PA, USA, 2005
ISBN 0-7643-2149-8 (224pp tpb)

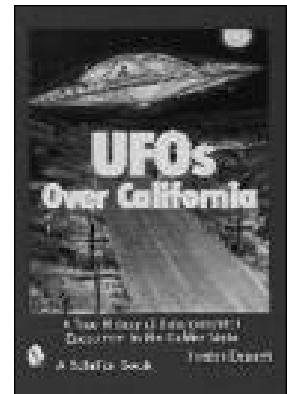
Availability: USA—Schiffer Publishing,
<http://www.schifferbooks.com>; UK—
Bushwood Books, tel 020 8392 8585

According to a 1977 study by Dr J. Allen Hynek, California had the most UFO sighting reports of any state in the US, at just over 9.9 per cent, and subsequent studies in 1995 and 2003 continue to keep the state up there. UFO investigator Preston Dennett figures this is a good reason to write a book focusing on just Californian cases, and why not. Arguably the first recorded UFO sightings in the modern era occurred in 1896 in California, when a cigar-shaped airship was observed by a number of witnesses between October and December. Yet even in the last few years, says Dennett, the same cigar-type shapes are being reported. But so, too, are black triangles and diamonds, brightly glowing spheres and egg-shaped

objects, discs and even UFO fleets.

Dennett has been exploring UFO phenomena since 1986 and has written several books on the subject, including *UFO Healings* (see article in 5/06). A southern California resident for 20 years, he has also been a field investigator for MUFON and personally researched many of the cases that are included in his latest book, *UFOs Over California*. Rather than treating the subject matter chronologically, he groups sightings according to themes, e.g., the waves of the 1950s and the "invasions" of Edwards Air Force Base, crash retrievals, landings and humanoids, abductions, onboard encounters, the early contactee movement as well as healing encounters and implant removal surgeries. And as Hollywood is part of California, we're not left wanting in the area of celebrity UFO sightings—including President Ronald Reagan's. There's a colour photo section that includes graphics from ancient Native American artworks.

The phenomenon is an old one but, as Dennett presages in his pacy, attention-grabbing book, it's not going to go away.



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BRAVE NEW WORLD OF ZERO RISK by Martin J. Walker

Slingshot Publications, UK, 2005
ISBN n/a (320pp e-book)

Availability: <http://www.zero-risk.org>

New Labour, when it came to power in the UK in 1997, made Big Pharma a partner in government, says Martin J. Walker in *Brave New World of Zero Risk*. It has fostered a culture of leaving science/health research, policy and administration to corporations that are more interested in protecting the status quo and their profits than in promoting public health.



Following on from where he left off in *Skewed* (which examined the redefinition of CFS as a "psychiatric problem"; see 11/06), Walker uses examples of conflicts over ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis), the MMR vaccine and GE foods to further his case. ME is one of those illnesses—along with MCS (multiple chemical sensitivity) and GWS (Gulf War syndrome)—that psychiatrists, unwilling to look for and unable to find a biological cause, are now labelling as mental aberrations requiring treatment with psychiatric drugs. Walker explains how this trend away from evidence-based medicine towards sheer fantasy has been on the increase since the mid-1990s: the front organisations, lobby groups, paid agents and the pharmcos had to do something to counter the rising tide of public mistrust of mainstream science and medicine since the 1980s and the rising uptake of alternative health options. Scares over BSE and CJD, salmonella poisoning, EM fields, GMOs and foot and mouth disease have done little to keep people's faith in the system. We are no longer convinced when politicians and corporate scientists try to say that some new innovation has "zero risk" and then ignore and cover up the shocking truth.

Walker discusses the attacks against Dr Andrew Wakefield who discovered a link between MMR vaccine, inflammatory bowel disease and autism. Critics failed to address the vaccine safety issue or call for indepen-

dent repeat studies, and they gave no comfort to anxious parents. Big Pharma protects its back with a little help from powerful friends, while censoring a dissenter.

Walker calls on scientists to wake up to how they and their work are being manipulated. They must form new professional bodies and take scientific and medical developments into society for open public debate. In anticipation of this turnaround, Walker has set up the Zero Risk? Group (www.zero-risk.org) to distribute his book freely over the Internet. Heavily indexed, it's worth its weight in gold for its chilling exposé of powerful forces that are not in the business of upholding the public interest.

AN OVERVIEW OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL RACES by Rolf Waeber

Trafford Publishing, Victoria, BC, 2005
ISBN 1-4120-6360-4 (397pp pb)

Availability: <http://www.trafford.com>

Swiss UFO researcher Rolf Waeber's book is a glossary of things extraterrestrial and interdimensional. First, Waeber lists the basic alien types reported in our galaxy—humanoids/mammalians, reptilians, insectoids (including Greys) and etheric beings—and describes the 200+ races by name, from the Abbenaki of Marduk to the Zetas. He gives few sources to show who passed on these names, so I wonder how seriously he expects the reader to regard the data. Some names would be familiar to many readers of ufological lore who have looked into the stories of contactees and abductees, but some have come from channellers—many of whom are listed in the section on lightworkers, researchers and experiencers. At least this section has contact details and website addresses where available; plus, there's an extensive bibliography in the final pages.

There are all sorts of federations, councils and networks listed in the organisations section, including the Andromedan Federation and Ashtar Command, and a few terrestrial ones get a mention, e.g., the Bilderbergers and the UN. There are lists of stellar and planetary bodies, light cities and underground alien bases on Earth, starships by race and name, and UFO crashes and forced landings, but with little source information.

Waeber also describes a host of other beings: angels, ascended masters, guides, light beings and the spiritual hierarchy. It would seem that the universe is a truly happening place! Finally, Waeber presents basic timelines of the history of Earth seeding by ET races and of various Earth periods and civilisations. As for the predictions, I'm not aware that any of those for 1999 to 2005 have come true, so I don't hold out much hope for the ones for 2006 onwards!

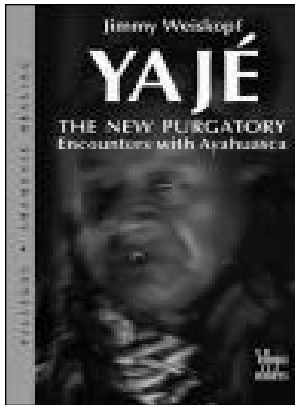


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YAJÉ: The New Purgatory – Encounters with Ayahuasca by Jimmy Weiskopf

Villegas Editores SA, Colombia, 2005
ISBN 958-8160-85-5 (309pp pb)
Availability: Villegas Editores SA,
<http://www.VillegasEditores.com>

The drink made from the scrapings of the Amazonian *yajé* vine and the leaves of a complementary plant is a potent concoction that teaches the *yajacero* (the drinker) lessons about his/her health, conduct and destiny and about the meaning of life itself. Once the exclusive province of indigenous Amazonian tribes, the potion known as *ayahuasca* has found its way to the urban centres of Colombia, Peru and Brazil where traditional shamans conduct rituals in its proper use by non-tribal locals and increasing numbers of curious foreign visitors. (Readers may recall Graham Hancock's life-changing experiences with the drug as described in *Supernatural*; see 13/01.)



Now we have a book devoted exclusively to *yajé* in all its hells and glories. It's written with elegance and eloquence by New York-born journalist Jimmy Weiskopf, who has lived in Colombia for 25 years and is now a naturalised citizen. He describes the *yajé* preparation and shamanic ritual and, for this English-language edition, his own experiences with it in urban and jungle settings. He also includes stunning b&w photos of the shamans (often in a trance state) whom he has befriended over the years.

According to the indigenous practitioners, *yajé* is unique in that it contains "99% of the power of the plant kingdom". Weiskopf, who translates books for his Colombian publisher, is dedicated to retaining the knowledge of the vine and its rituals, exploring its curative and visionary powers and bringing discussion of its sociological, ethical, philosophical and healing dimensions to the West. The experience is at first purgative: it can render the drinker so ill as to feel on death's door, but overseen by the watchful shaman it reveals a portal that draws the

seeker within to a new wisdom.

Weiskopf reveals profound insights into transformative knowledge, and gives an exciting account of his travels on the way.

TRANCEFORMERS: Shamans of the 21st Century

by John Jay Harper

Reality Press, Foresthill, CA, USA, 2006
ISBN 0-9777904-0-1 (328pp tpb)
Availability: Reality Entertainment,
<http://www.reality-entertainment.com/books.htm>

It was the sudden death of his best friend in 1988 and a "visit" by him four months later that led John Jay Harper on a quest to find scientific answers to questions about spirituality, including what, if anything, happens after we die. A US Army veteran who is also an electronics and IT specialist, a clinical hypnotherapist, research scientist and futurist, Harper embarked on a 15-year study of the works of leading-edge scientists and philosophers, so his comprehensive thesis owes much to these thinkers whom he quotes and credits throughout. The late Terence McKenna, Bruce Lipton (who wrote the foreword), Rupert Sheldrake, Paul La Violette, Alice Bailey, Gary Schwartz, Phyllis Atwater, Michael Talbot, Deepak Chopra and Ken Wilber are just a few authors who've informed and inspired him.

The crux of Harper's book *Tranceformers* is that humanity is soon to go through a shift into a fifth-dimensional field of cosmic consciousness, probably coinciding with a magnetic reversal of the Earth and our solar system when they align with the galactic ecliptic in 2012, so we'd better prepare for it. The key to this fifth-dimensional doorway is the trance state, which is at the heart of the ancient practice of shamanism—and we can learn how to access this state, he says. In reality, the shaman "taps into the biological book of life, DNA recordings and transmissions". The universe is a hologram, Harper concludes (he's not the first to do so); our DNA is the simplest holographic form but is tuned into Earth, solar and galactic cycles.

However, this coming shift will involve major upheavals in climate as well as cultures on the planet. Harper recounts several visions he's had about drastic Earth changes to come—volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis on an unprecedented scale—but also discusses how we can minimise the effects if more of us have a positive attitude and can access our higher self.

Synthesising a vast storehouse of knowledge from archaeology, astrology, astronomy, biology, medicine, occultism, physics and more, Harper has produced an accessible guidebook for the lay reader who seeks to become truly self-empowered.

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DVDs

Selected by Duncan Roads

THE MAYAN CALENDAR COMES NORTH: "The Condor Flies to the Eagle"

Presented by Ian Xel Lungold
© Ian Xel Lungold, 2004 (180mins)
Availability: **Australia**—2012 Unlimited,
PO Box 157, North Hobart, Tas 7002,
<http://www.2012.com.au>

If there is one thing that is fundamental to the coherence of any civilisation, it is the calendar, and the Mayan calendar is certainly becoming the focus of more and more attention. In this three-hour, two-DVD set, Ian goes step by step on how the Mayan calendar relates to the evolution of consciousness, and he goes into particular detail about the years leading up to the much anticipated 2012 date.

Ian makes the complexities of the Mayan calendar very easy to understand on a personal level. He also clearly points out how the "Schedule of Creation" can be tracked when one looks at historical events and relates that information to what we can expect in the near future.

This is probably the best overall presentation of the famous Mayan calendar that I have seen. It also includes a Q&A session. If you are confused about the different claims over which calendar system is "correct", then you will especially appreciate this presentation.



SECRETS OF ALCHEMY:

The Great Cross and the End of Time

Presented by Jay Weidner
© Sacred Mysteries Productions, Port Townsend, WA, USA, 2004 (59mins)
Availability: **USA**—Sacred Mysteries Productions, www.sacredmysteries.com;
Aust—Brumby Books, tel (03) 9761 5535

In this visually compelling and thought-provoking documentary, filmmaker, author and scholar Jay Weidner uncovers some of the deepest secrets of the ancient Western tradition of alchemy: knowledge of the apocalypse, the end of time and the



imminent transformation of humanity.

Using the work of the mysterious 20th-century French alchemist Fulcanelli as his foundation, and with his discovery of a 350-year-old alchemical cross in southern France, Jay has a mission to find the ultimate meaning behind the resurrection of Christ and the prophecies of the book of Revelation. In seeking to decode the powerful and haunting message of the Great Cross of Hendaye, he journeys from southern France to Egypt and Peru.

QUANTUM ASTROLOGY:

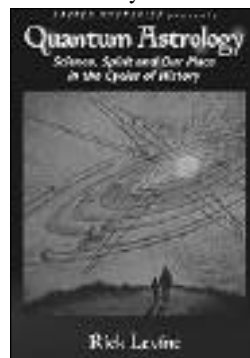
Science, Spirit and Our Place in the Cycles of History

Presented by Rick Levine
© Sacred Mysteries Productions, USA, 2004 (59mins)
Availability: **USA**—Sacred Mysteries Productions, www.sacredmysteries.com;
Aust—Brumby Books, tel (03) 9761 5535

Astrologer Rick Levine offers a unique and comprehensive perspective on the sacred science and art of astrology. Handed down to us from our ancient ancestors, this mystical science of the stars and planets was designed to provide us with a greater understanding of both the physical and spiritual nature of our lives.

Using the outer planets' rhythms as his foundation, Levine unveils and clearly demonstrates the impact of cosmic cycles—not only on our personal lives but also on significant historical events.

Assisted by many computer animations that bring these teachings to life, Rick shows us an astonishing array of facts that reveal the inner essence of astrology and the flow of time. Through his analysis we see that time itself can be mapped and understood through the knowledge of planetary movements and the cycles of history. In a clear and straightforward manner, he unfolds a 21st-century vision of this ancient science. He also reveals its relationship to the bewildering world of quantum physics and its relevance to these fast-moving and rapidly changing times.





REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

SHAMAN WOMAN

by Vicki Hansen

Global Grooves, Aust, 2005 (59mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522; **UK**—New World Music, tel 01986 891600; **USA**—New World Music, tel 800 771 0987, website <http://www.globalnetwork.com.au>

Vicki Hansen says that *Shaman Woman* came to her following a post-tsunami visit to Sri Lanka, where she'd done volunteer work with an organisation called Sarvodaya. She was struck by the enormity of Mother Nature's force, and her eyes and heart were opened to a degree she'd never experienced before. *Shaman Woman* is all about tuning in to the healing force of Nature. It's a deeply meditative album, featuring the shaman drum, flutes, didgeridoo and Vedic chants. Music to heal and uplift.

THE CARIBBEAN

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2005 (46mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Putumayo, tel 07759 600495; **USA**—Putumayo World Music, tel 800 955 9588, www.putumayo.com

The original inhabitants of the Caribbean were Arwak, Caribe and Taino Indians. Their populations were ravaged by introduced disease and the islands became a centre of the African slave trade. This brought a diverse range of cultural influences that inspired new musical forms like reggae, mento and ska in Jamaica and calypso and soca in Trinidad and Barbados. Artists here include Ska Cubano, Mika, Coalishun, Waldo Mendoza, The Skatalites, Jab Jab and Militant. This is Caribbean music at its partying and exhilarating best.

INYAN

by Sacred Earth

Sacred Earth Music, 2005 (61mins)
Distributors: NWM, tel +61 (0)2 9565 4522; <http://www.sacredearthliving.info>

This third CD from Australian group Sacred Earth is a quieter offering compared with previous albums. Following the acclaimed *Pamanyungan* and *Divine Devotion* (see NEXUS 12/05), *Inyan* features the duo's devotional chanting and sacred music. Prem Aliyah and Jethro Williams are joined by eminent percussionist Tunji Beier on his ghatam and kanjira drums and on dholkis. *Inyan* is the word for the honouring of rocks, stones and boulders of the Earth. The album is great mood

music for your practice of yoga and meditation and for relaxation.

BEYOND THE MOON

by Chris Shakallis

New Audio, Australia, 2005 (61 mins)
Distributors: New World Music; website <http://www.soundshak.com>

Experimenting with sound and its effects on consciousness is the wave of the future. This album from Chris Shakallis uses the enneagram and Tibetan singing bowls to do so. The enneagram is a precise mathematical pattern engraved into a circle with numbers. The album consists of three 21-minute interconnecting musical enneagrams; each is a threefold process around the circle. There are the 1-4-2-8-5-7-1 and the 9-3-6-9 sequences. Also featured on the CD is oud, shakuhachi, didgeridoo and vocals. An intriguing experiment in sound.

SHADOW, MIST & LIGHT

by Peter Sterling

Real Music Records, 2005 (57mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—New World Music; **Europe**—MCC, tel +49 4102 898202; **USA**—Real Music, tel (415) 331 8273, <http://www.realmusic.com>

A new artist from Real Music, Peter Sterling has an amazing story. He had a spiritual vision of playing harp with a heavenly choir surrounding him, and saw himself allowing divine music to flow in. A week later, he met a Celtic harpist and bought a harp. Instinctively he began to play chords and melodies. "It was as if my hands knew what to do," Peter said. The melodies then began to mature into distinct songs. His first album was released in 1994, and his second, *Harp Dreams*, went to number one on the NAR top-100 radio playlist in 2004 and was nominated for US "Album of the Year". His new release combines congas, flutes, didge, guitars and violin with harp. This variety of world influences makes it a fascinating mix.

